Wheat Production

†1542. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been assessed that the forthcoming wheat crops will be below its target;

(b) if so, what was the target of production togetherwith the estimate regarding the actual production;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the information regarding the reasons for less production in comparison to the target; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) As per estimates made in January 2000 the wheat production during 1999-2000 was expected to be 68.7 million tonnes as against the target of 74.0 million tonnes. The shortfall was expected mainly due to agro climatic factors. However, favourable rains and temperature conditions since then, have improved the crop prospects. Revised estimates of the production of wheat crop will be made, after discussions with the States, sometimes in the fourth week of March 2000.

Steps to increase Milk Production

1543. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether milk production is less than requirement in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to encourage increase in production and curb on export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Milk Production and Per capita Availability of milk has been steadily increasing the per capita availability of milk has increased from 173 gms in 1989-90 to 204 gms in 1997-98. The Indian Council of Medical Research has however recommended a daily intake

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.